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Rowan



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Chapter 1 by Emster

"Dad?" I said, stepping into his room, "You wanted to see me?"

"What?" he said with a puzzled look on his face. I pulled out my phone to show him the text he had just sent me.

"I don't remember doing that!" my father suffers from short term memory loss. It used to get annoying, but it's grown on me. He squinted at the bright screen, pushing his glasses up further on his face.

"Oh yes! I was wondering about what you want to do this summer. You have to make a decision!" I glared at him. My dad had been bothering me about college since I started high school. Now that my senior year is almost over he's been on my case even more.

"What were the choices again?" I asked.

"You're asking the wrong person, Rowan!" I turned away and slumped back into my room. I hated the sound of my name. It was my mother's name. I'd rather not talk about her.

Chapter 2 by brii_ano13



I plopped face down on my bed, focusing on my ragged breathing so that I don't have to think of all that was forcing their way into my mind. Well that didn't work quite so well, and I lazily

walked over to the wall plug and unplugged my phone from the charger, and the headset from the drawer on my bed. Turning it to I blocked out all the memories I hated.

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I hated feeling vulnerable and broken and alone and confused and grrrrh, all these things that messed with my mind. Anger was more sort of my thing, smacking the hell out of someone. Yup, you called my name.

"Rowie!" My bestfriend Judy called chirpily from the door.

I turned around, lifting the headset from off my ear to greet her happily.

"Juju!" I yelped, jumping off the bed and on to my bestest friend in the world. "How was New York?!"

"Lonely. Boring. How could I have enjoyed it without my bestest friend in the world!" She asked looking up at me innocently.

I rolled my eyes. "Oh please spare me the innocence. You must have dragged uncle around the whole city trying to eat at every restaurant and shopping from every store. Show me the sexy undie that you brought back for me!" I laughed, revelling in the moment, and making use of every past second so as not to think about...

Chapter 3 by Brynn



And there I go thinking about it, my dad's short-term memory, my mom leaving us.

My face must've fallen because all of a sudden she was on top of me hugging and comforting me.

"You're the best friend anyone could ever wish for." I said almost in tears.

"Shh don't upset yourself." she said soothingly.

"I just can't believe her why would she leave us, and now when dad can barely support himself, let alone the two of us." I cried

"Shhh, just shh."

I looked at for the first time since my outburst her smile pretty much dried up all my tears. She had always been there for me. she's the most amazing person ever, and I love her for it.

I just stared at her. and I guess I must have started to blush because she looked startled maybe even a little scared and started to get up, but then settled back down, blushing.

"I'll always come for you when you

"Okay" I agreed leaning

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Chapter 4 by Paige Ashley Toole



The next day that call was made. Judy came hurtling through the trees in the woods with such a passion that the thorns and branches brought speckles of blood to the surface of her skin. There was nothing that could come between or pierce the love she had for me, and I fully grasped that now.

I was sitting on the dock by the lake. This was our spot when we needed to get away-- from what, we weren't always sure. Or at least I wasn't. I was smoking one of the cigarettes from the pack we hid within a hole in a nearby tree. Even though no one would find them, we still liked keeping everything a secret. It's just who we were, like wildflowers growing on the side of a highway: we always felt out of place, and the rubbernecking of those travelling around made us uncomfortable. Here, we could not be seen or heard. That is why I called her to come to this place, our place. I had to let her know what Dad had told me, which he probably already forgot by now. But I couldn't erase it out of my head-- it was etched in there like my initials on our lake tree. As Judy approached, the look in her eyes showed me she knew something was really wrong. This was the time to worry-- not to joke or try and distract me. Suddenly, it felt like winter was coming and I was beginning to wither.

"Rowan, what is it? You're scaring me," she said.

I could barely look at her, or blame her. I was scared, too. I looked up at her with dead eyes. I could not cry right now or else she would.

"Juju-- it's all been a lie. I don't know how I never saw it before. I don't know if dad meant to tell me, but regardless...I know now. I know that for all of these years one of parent's has never been who I thought. In return, I have no idea who I am."

"What on God's green earth are you talking about?"

It's my mom, she--"

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